

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04297 021028Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EUR-12 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /075 W
----- 025347

R 020710Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3220

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4297

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AF, IN

SUBJECT: AFGHAN RESPONSE TO EVENTS IN INDIA AND MRS.
GANDHI'S STRICT MEASURES

1. SUMMARY. AFGHANS WHO HAVE COMMENTED ON RECENT EVENTS IN INDIA SEEMS NOT TO HAVE LINKED THEM WITH FUTURE INDIAN-AFGHAN RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE OFFICIAL POSITION (ALTHOUGH NOT PUBLICIZED) IS THAT MRS. GANDHI, OF COURSE, ACTED CORRECTLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY GIVEN PROVOCATIONS, OPINION OF LEADING JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE TALKED WAS OPENLY CRITICAL OF AUTHORITARIAN TURN OF EVENTS. AS INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT INDIA'S PROBLEMS WILL MAKE AFGHANS ALL THE MORE CAREFUL IN PHRASING THEIR NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS APPARENTLY STILL IN DRAFT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION BETWEEN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMATION DIRECTOR FARHANG, AND GEORGE SHERMAN, NEA/PRESS OFFICER WHO VISITED KABUL JUNE 30, FARHANG TOOK VIEW THAT MRS. GANDHI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 04297 021028Z

HAD INDEED BEEN FORCED TO ACTION BY REAL THREATS TO HER

COUNTRY AND THAT SHE HAD ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. WE TAKE THIS TO BE OFFICIAL MFA POSITION, BUT BELIEVE GOA WILL USE IT ONLY IF ASKED AND NOT AS PUBLIC LINE. THUS FAR REPORTS PRINTED HERE ON INDIAN SITUATION HAVE BEEN STRAIGHT NEWS WITHOUT EDITORIALIZING.

3. INFORMED PRIVATE OPINION IS MUCH LESS KIND TO MRS. GANDHI. AT LUNCHEON IN SHERMAN'S HONOR JOURNALISTS PRESENT WERE OUTSPOKENLY DISMAYED AT AUTHORITARIAN TURN OF EVENTS. CONSENSUS WAS THAT DESPITE ENORMITY OF HER PROBLEMS THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR MRS. GANDHI'S CLAMPDOWN, AND ONE JOURNALIST WHO LIVED SEVERAL YEARS IN INDIA STATES THAT HER CHARGES THAT INDIAN MILITARY HAD BECOME INFILTRATED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WAS CERTAIN TO CAUSE ALIENATION THAT COULD LEAD TO HER DOWNFALL.

4. THOSE AFGHANS WHO EXPRESSED OPINIONS AT THE LUNCH SEEMED NOT TO FIND IMPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN, AND THEY DID NOT SPECULATE ON WHERE ALL THIS MIGHT LEAD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. NOR DID THEY SPECULATE ON HOW SOVIET UNION'S POSITION IN INDIA MIGHT BE AFFECTED, WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY HAVE CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON AFGHAN OUTLOOK TOWARD ITS REGION.

5. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH, TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 30 THAT EVENTS IN INDIA, WHICH HE APPARENTLY HAS FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST, HAD MADE AFGHAN LEADERS ALL THE MORE CAUTIOUS IN DRAFTING A NEW CONSTITUTION AND ALL THE MORE INTERESTED IN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN "IN NEARBY COUNTRIES." ONE OF THE AREAS MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR WAS MAPPING A PROPER PLACE FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, AND ABDULLAH ADDED THAT A PRINCIPAL FAILURE OF THE PREVIOUS MONARCHIAL REGIME WAS NOT PROMULGATING A LAW GOVERNING PARTIES.
COMMENT: ON THIS EVE OF CELEBRATION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHAN REPUBLIC THERE IS AGAIN MUCH SPECULATION REGARDING A CONSTITUTION. ABDULLAH'S COMMENT, THOUGH MADE IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, MAY INDICATE THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND THAT PROMULGATION REMAINS DISTANT. END COMMENT.
ELIOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 04297 021028Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KABUL04297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750229-0224
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750792/aaaademy.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN RESPONSE TO EVENTS IN INDIA AND MRS. GANDHI'S STRICT MEASURES
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AF, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006